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Projected For SBC

Most Baptisms, 12 Million Members, Billion Dollar Gifts

NASHVILLE (BP) — Statistical projections from reports for 26,337 Southern Baptist Churches indicate that the denomination in 1972 will pass the 12 million mark in church membership, the one billion dollar mark in total receipts, and will set a record in number of baptisms.

Increases are expected in baptisms, church membership, Sunday

School enrolment, church music enrolment, mission expenditures, and total financial receipts.

Decreases are predicted in Training Union enrolment, WMU enrolment, and Brotherhood enrolment.

The figures, according to Martin B. Bradley, secretary of the research services department for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, should be "very close" to the final

official figures which will be released in February, 1973.

Baptisms increased by 43,014, over the 1971 total. The estimated 1972 total of 452,673 is an all-time high for Southern Baptists, exceeding the previous high of 429,063 reached in 1959.

If the projections are accurate, it will mark the second year in a row that baptisms in the SBC have increased more than 40,000, making the total increase in baptisms for the last two years more than 80,000, Bradley noted.

Church membership is expected to reach the 12,051,166 mark, reflecting a gain of 224,703 members, Bradley said. The increase was seen in churches in all sizes and locations, but was greatest in towns and cities, ex-

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SBC Annuity Board Extends 'Credit' To 20,000 Participants

DALLAS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board here will wish 20,000 participants in its retirement plans a "Happy New Year" by granting them a record 10 per cent "good experience credit."

This means about 20,000 participants will have their retirement credits accumulated as of Jan. 1, 1973, increased by 10 per cent, said Darrid H. Morgan, Annuity Board president. "Good experience credit" refers to the board's "good experience" income from investments of the retirement contributions it holds in trust, Morgan added.

"Good experience credit," like the so-called "13th check," became possible "because interest earnings of the board have exceeded those required actuarially by the different plans administered," Morgan said.

"Good experience credit" is added to the accounts of those still in ac-

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Criswell Is Not Opposed To 'Talks' With National Council

DALLAS (BP) — Former Southern Baptist Convention president W. A. Criswell told reporters covering the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches that he "would not be opposed" to dialogue with the ecumenical body.

The pastor of the 17,000-member First Baptist Church here did not endorse Southern Baptist Convention membership in the National Council of Churches but said, "Any man who names the name of Christ in love and sincerity is my brother in the faith."

The outspoken Baptist pastor made it clear, however, that he was not going liberal, but only remaining open to brother in Christ who may not agree completely with him theologically.

Criswell told reporters in his office "I believe the literal translation of the scripture, the virgin birth, resurrection, the miracles and all."

"But I believe it is possible, if a man is really right with God and has the spirit of Christ, to stay true to a position and yet sit down with his brother whose theology differs."

With typical Criswell humor, he quipped there are some who call him a "funny-damn-mentalist."

Criswell said later in another interview that he considers himself a fundamentalist. "My definition of a fundamentalist," he said, "is someone who believes all the Bible is literally

true; a liberal is someone who doesn't. "A man can be a sincere Christian and a soul winner and not be a fundamentalist," Criswell said. "In our convention, we are so deeply conservative that even a liberal in our midst looks like a conservative in any other context."

Gesturing with a Bible, he told reporters here that Paul's writings about sending apostles to minister to different kinds of people compare to "people of different colors."

"The genius of our denomination lies in the sovereignty of the local church," he said later. "No convention of association or executive group can take a Southern Baptist church into anything or anywhere."

"But on the other hand," he continued, "if the Southern Baptist Convention voted to do a thing like that there is nothing to keep it from so voting."

"American Baptist Convention churches are also sovereign, but the American Baptist Convention, on the national level, belongs to the National Council of Churches."

"I would not recommend that for our convention, but I would love for us to have a willingness to talk to anybody and to present those deep religious convictions that make us Southern Baptist," Criswell declared.

"There are more common ground

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Baptist Foundation Elects Officers

Officers for the coming year were elected by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees at its meeting Dec. 7 in Jackson. From left, seated, Rev. Carey Cox, Brandon, executive secretary; J. W. Barfield, Jackson, president, (re-elected); E. L. Herring, Jackson, vice-president, (re-elected). Standing: Grady Doss, Eupora, Executive Committee (re-elected); A. L. Boone, Winona, chairman Executive Committee, (re-elected). (Not shown is C. H. Kennedy, Brandon, Executive Committee, (re-elected).)

Tennessee Court Hears Arguments On Tax Case

NASHVILLE (BP)—The final judicial step of a tax case which has been in contention since 1969 was taken here when the Tennessee Supreme Court heard arguments from attorneys representing the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the Methodist Publishing House, and the Metropolitan Nashville tax assessor.

Attorneys were reported by the Nashville Tennessean to be in agreement that "the lawsuit is a test case for determining whether — and to what extent — religious publishing houses may be exempted from local property taxation."

In 1969, the Metropolitan Nashville tax assessor placed a new assessment on the Sunday School Board and the Nashville-based Methodist Publishing House.

The appeal to the state Supreme Court was taken after the issue was not satisfactorily decided by the metropolitan and state boards of equalization or the Chancery Court and state Court of Appeals.

Rulings of the lower bodies were appealed by both the publishing houses and the metropolitan assessor.

The central point at issue is the interpretation of the Tennessee law which provides exemption for "the real estate owned by any religious, charitable, scientific, or educational institution occupied by such institution or its officers exclusively for carrying out the purposes for which the institution was created or for which it exists."

The Baptist and Methodist cases were heard separately before tax boards and lower courts, but were combined for oral argument before the state Supreme Court.

Attorneys for the publishing houses maintained that tax exemption should be upheld for all real and personal property owned by the agencies and used for purely religious purposes.

The attorney for the metropolitan tax assessor said that the two organizations had failed to show that any portion of their property is being used

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Episcopalians, Methodists Predominate

New U. S. Senate Will Have Eight Baptists

NEW YORK (RNS) — More Roman Catholics — 12 — Will occupy governors' mansion in 1973 than members of any other Church.

And 18 men each with Episcopal and United Methodist affiliation will form the largest religious groupings in the Senate of the 93rd Congress, according to a post-election tabulation by Religious News Service.

Six governors or governors-elect are United Methodist, six Presbyterian and six Baptist. The Senate in 1973 will have 15 Presbyterians, 14 Catholics and eight Baptists.

While issues having strong religious

Cooperative Gifts Up 9.6% For Year

Cooperative Program gifts from churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention totaled \$4,302,082 for the first eleven months of this year, ending Nov. 30.

Dr. W. Douglas Hudgins, executive secretary-treasurer, said that this was an increase of \$378,068, or 9.6% over the \$3,924,014 given during the same period in 1971.

Receipts for November were \$453,374, a gain of 32.4% over the amount given in November of 1971.

significance were involved in some races, the church affiliation of candidates was nowhere a central campaign topic. Religious preference of

nominees was neither mentioned nor widely known in many states.

The religious ties of governors and senators are of decreasing importance

in terms of issues or partisan politics. They do have relevance in what they reflect about pluralism in America. Many churches and traditions are represented.

Catholic governors increased from nine to 12 in the 1972 general election; United Methodists declined from eight to six.

There were 20 United Methodists in the Senate of the 92nd Congress; Episcopalians had 17, Presbyterians 16 and Catholics 13. While the Methodist ranks decline by two and the Presbyterian by one, Episcopal and Catholic rise one each in the 93rd. Baptists remain at the same number.

The new Congress will have seven senators from the United Church of Christ (mostly from the Congregationalist tradition). There are four Unitarians, four Mormons, three Lutherans and two Jews. Two designate themselves only as "Protestant." One is Christian Scientist, one Disciple, one Schwenkfelderian and one a member of the Church of Christ. (Sen. Harrison Williams (R-N.J.) has often been listed as a Unitarian in past lists. However, the 1972 Congressional Directory states that he is Presbyterian.)

The only new Episcopal governor is Dolph Briscoe (D-Tex.). C. S. Bond (R.), the governor-elect in Missouri is Presbyterian; James E. Holshouser (R.) in Virginia is Southern Baptist; Meldrim Thompson, Jr., in New Hampshire attends an American Baptist congregation. Otis Bowen (R.), the governor-elect in Indiana, and

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Most Churches To Observe Bible Study

NASHVILLE — New January Bible Study Promotion Packets are available now to help pastors lead a more effective Bible study. A 56 page book, "A More Effective January Bible Study," gives tips for planning and promoting January Bible Study, and presents ideas for outreach through January Bible Study. Other promotion aids include an Awareness Streamer, Information Poster, Sign-Up Chart and Reminder Sticker designed to create anticipation and secure commitment of members for the January Bible Study. Both products may be purchased in your Baptist Book Store.

SBC Foundation Has 'Its Greatest Year' In 1971-72

NASHVILLE (BP) — Observing its 25th anniversary, the Southern Baptist Foundation here experienced the "greatest, most productive year" in its history, executive secretary Kendall Berry told members of the Board of Directors in annual session here.

For the first time, market value of the total trust corpus administered by the foundation for the benefit of Southern Baptist causes and annuitants under contract passed the \$14 million mark, Berry reported.

Book value of the total trust corpus at the end of the fiscal year Sept. 30 was \$13,894,232, an increase of \$2.2 million or almost double the previous record increase in total trust corpus for any one year.

Calling it the most productive year in the Foundation's history, Berry noted that the foundation received \$3.2 million in cash and security for investment plus appreciation, and in-

come collections of \$653,303 exclusive of any capital gains, another record amount. There were also record withdrawals by the SBC agencies, he noted.

"This was phenomenal growth during the past year considering the unsettled economic conditions that exist throughout the nation and world today," Berry told the directors in reviewing the Foundation's silver anniversary year.

Berry added that the year 1972 was outstanding in several other ways, including greater utilization of its services by individuals wanting help in perfecting wills and establishing perpetual trusts, as well as by Southern Baptist Convention agencies in the investment of their endowment and reserve funds.

Though much progress has been made, Berry said he was disappointed that there has not been more cooperation among all SBC agencies and state convention foundations, and that the SBC Foundation is prohibited by convention policy from promoting and seeking endowments and trust funds to benefit Baptist causes.

"If Southern Baptist Foundation could receive the same cooperation from the Southern Baptist Convention that the Baptist Foundation of Texas receives from the Baptist General Convention of Texas as well as other Baptist agencies and institutions in that state," the Southern Baptist Foundation could be a \$100 million foundation almost overnight," he said. "We are convinced that thousands of would-be donors with millions of dollars are being neglected — donors who are anxious to invest in the advancement of Christianity. We are

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SBC Cooperative Program Receipts Stay At 1971 Level

NASHVILLE (BP) — Contributions to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget have stayed at virtually the same level as 1971 during the first two months of the convention's fiscal year.

A financial report from the SBC Executive Committee disclosed that an 8.32 per cent decrease in Cooperative Program giving for the month of November offset an 8.7 per cent increase for the month of October, keeping the budget receipts of the 1971 level.

During the first two months of the fiscal year, Southern Baptists have

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Music To Be Featured At Youth Convention

Music will be one of the features of the annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Convention to be held Dec. 28-29 in Jackson at the First Baptist Church and the Municipal Auditorium.

Larry Black, minister of music of the host church, will be coordinator of convention music.

By popular demand the group "Truth" is returning for the Convention. The group was so well received last year that they are coming back. They will be singing for both evening sessions at the Auditorium and for Friday morning sessions at the church.

"Truth," fourteen young singers and instrumentalists led by Roger Breland, comes from Mobile, Alabama, and for the past several years has traveled across America, sharing

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The "TRUTH" group of singers from Mobile, Ala., will sing again this year at Youth Convention.



Give To The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions lends support to the work of medical missionaries. Above, Missionary W. Wayne Logan, D.D.S., in the Enugu area, Akpuge, Nigeria, examines a patient's teeth as other people watch. Dr. Logan is a Mississippian.

Projected Most Baptisms . . .

(Continued from page 1)

cept for the largest churches in the cities. These had the least membership gains.

In educational organizations, Sunday School gained 42,849 for a total enrolment of 7,184,302 — the first gain in enrolment since 1964.

Church music enrolment continued its pattern of increase, with an 8.5 per cent rise over last year. The new enrolment for music organizations is 1,181,543, a gain of 92,563.

Training Union enrolment continued to decline, although at a slower rate than last year, Bradley said. There was a loss of 50,565 members, a 2.4 per cent loss compared with a loss of 5.4 per cent last year. Total 1972 enrolment is projected to be 2,056,290.

Woman's Missionary Union enrolment dropped 15,926, or 1.4 per cent, a smaller loss than the 5.2 per cent loss last year. Total enrolment this year is expected to be 1,121,660.

Brotherhood declined a total of 903 persons in total enrolment, to 450,635. Last year there was an increase of 6.9 percent.

Mission expenditures showed an increase of 9.2 per cent, to \$175,316,505, while total receipts were up 10.6 per cent, to \$1,078,651,871 mark. The total figure includes some miscellaneous income, but the total gifts from members should easily surpass the billion dollar mark, according to Bradley.

An increase in baptisms was reported for churches of all size groups in all locations.

As a group, churches in cities

(other than new churches) showed hardly any increase in Sunday School enrolment, but more churches in other categories showed modest increases this year than last year.

Training Union membership increased slightly in open country churches, even though fewer churches reported an enrolment increase in that group along with churches in other locations.

In church music, there was a sizeable increase in enrolment and churches reporting enrolment in all size and location groups, with the greatest gains in open country churches.

There were increases in open country and village churches in WMU enrolment, but decreases in the larger churches in towns and cities more than offset these increases.

Brotherhood losses in some town churches and city churches with 300 members and up were offset by general gains in the open country, village, and smaller churches in towns.

Financial increases were fairly uniform across all size and location groups, with open country churches reporting the largest gains in total receipts.

The preliminary figures were arrived at by the research services department by computing the actual figures from 26,337 churches, then projecting through statistical means the expected reports from the remaining churches, based on their 1971 reports.

Weighting factors were added to give an acceptable degree of accuracy to these projected figures for

planning and decision-making purposes in the denomination, according to Bradley. (Prepared by BSSB Bureau)

John Wilkes Named Director Of European Baptist Press

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — John M. Wilkes, general secretary of the department of communications of the French Baptist Federation, has been named director of the European Baptist Press Service here.

He succeeds Ione Gray of Richmond, international editor and writer for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, who has filled the position on an interim basis since June, 1971. At the end of December, she will return to her position with the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

New U. S. Senate — — —

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Arthur A. Link (D.) in North Dakota are Lutheran.

New Baptist senators are J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) and Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

Among the 50 governors for 1973, Roman Catholics will lead with 12.

There will be six Baptists, as follows: Waller, (D-Miss.); Carter (D-Ga.); Ford (D-Ky.); Holshouser (R-N.C.); Rockefeller (R-N.Y.); Thompson (R-N.H.).

The affiliation of U. S. Senator includes 18 United Methodists and 18 Episcopalians, who lead in number.

There are eight Baptists, as follows: Byrd (D-W.Va.); Hatfield (R-Ore.); Helms (R-Va.); Johnston (D-La.); McClellan (D-Ark.); Randolph (D-W.Va.); Talmadge (D-Ga.); and Thurmond (R-S.C.).

Senator Stennis from Mississippi is a Presbyterian while the state's other Senator, Eastland, is a United Methodist.

First, Ripley Calls Pastor

First Church, Ripley, has called Dr. Paul Wilson as pastor. Dr. Wilson who has resigned Verona Church to accept the call, is a well-known evangelistic pastor, widely used in revival crusades throughout the South. Churches which he has served as pastor have annually ranked among the leaders in total baptism. There were 108 additions to the Verona Church this past year.



Dr. Wilson was one of five pastors invited by the Division of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board to make an evangelistic tour of the Virgin Islands in 1970. Numbers were won to Christ during his preaching tour, and he was invited by the missionaries to return at a future date.

Other pastorates during his ministry include the Bethel, Harmony, and Liberty Churches in Winston County. He was pastor of Yale Street, Cleveland, for 9½ years before accepting the call to First Church Opalocka, Florida.

He earned the Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees from Luther Rice Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Wilson has written a book, AN UNVEILING OF THE FUTURE, an exposition of the Book of Revelation, which will be in Christian book stores in the near future.

Dr. Ramsay To Lead Tour To Europe, Bible Lands

Dr. Bob N. Ramsay, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, along with Mrs. Ramsay, will conduct an in-depth tour of Europe and the Bible Lands for all those who would be interested in a comprehensive sojourn of research and travel. The trip is scheduled to begin June 22, 1973 and to last for 22 days.



The tour will be designed to provide the finest in travel, information and inspiration, as well as excitement participated by visiting the great historical centers of Europe and the Bible Lands.

Dr. Ramsay is an experienced tour conductor. He has traveled extensively, having conducted tours on a number of occasions to Europe, Russia as well as the countries of the Near East. In 1967 Dr. Ramsay conducted an evangelistic crusade in South Africa. The most recent trip took Dr. and Mrs. Ramsay around the world on a preaching mission, conducting revivals, both in Korea and South India.

Persons interested in making this tour should contact Dr. Ramsay for full information.



Ruffin Family Called To Meridian

Rev. James A. Ruffin, pastor of First Church, Okolona, has accepted a call to Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian.

Born in Starkville, he graduated from Mississippi State University. He then went to Southwestern Seminary where he graduated in 1958.

His wife is the former Virginia White of Starkville. They have two children, James "Al", 13, and Ginny Lee, 11.

After seminary, he returned to Mississippi as pastor of Pilgrim Rest, Batesville. His next pastorate was at Como, for 5½ years. He has been at First, Okolona six years.

Mr. Ruffin is currently state board member from Chickasaw Association and is chairman of the Mission Committee and the Evangelistic Committee of the Association. He is immediate pastor moderator of the County Association.

SBC Annuity Board — — —

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service. By contrast, the "13th check" is a bonus paid to retired ministers and other retired church workers who contributed to the board's retirement plans. It is called the "13th check" because it is paid in addition to the regular 12 monthly retirement benefits.

Morgan said this is the fourth straight year the board has been able to offer "good experience credit," and the percentage is five times greater than provided at any previous time. The credit will be given to Southern Baptist Protection Plans A-10, A-11, A-25, Morgan indicated.

Lottie Moon Offering Can Stop The Dollar Squeeze

Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, caught in a squeeze between inflation and dollar devaluation, are hanging their hopes on the Christmas offering back-home Baptists are now giving.

The 1973 Foreign Mission Board budget is geared to offset pressure on the American dollar so that 2,500 missionaries in 76 countries can keep up the pace of their work.

Foreign Mission Board officials say that devaluation resulted in a loss in value of approximately 3 cents per mission dollar last year. Meanwhile, 4 to 5 percent inflation cut into the buying power of the mission dollar.

An increase in allocations from the Cooperative Program is helping to relieve the pressure on missionaries. The Lottie Moon Christmas offering will put the budget on even keel.

Last year's Lottie Moon Offering was \$17,833,810. This year Southern Baptists are shooting for at least \$18,000,000. Because the offering should provide approximately 46 percent of the foreign missions budget, missionaries view it as crucial.

Allocations for the first \$12,500,000 of the offering cover more than 1,000 requests from missionaries. But hundreds of other requests, totaling more than \$4,000,000 are waiting at the end of the line for the offering to exceed \$18,000,000.

The thousands needs almost sure to be covered by the offering range in size from salaries for 700 missionar-

ies (\$1,000,000) to audiovisual aids in Chile (\$255).

The following sampler gives an idea of the varied uses of the offering:

Education of MK's—\$140,000 will help children of foreign missionaries to receive a college education.

Publishing the gospel — many countries will receive funds for publishing. For example, East Africa will receive \$5,482, and Israel will receive

\$6,000.

Theological education — training of national Baptist leaders is one of the most significant jobs of missionaries. Missionaries help staff 71 seminaries in 41 countries. Among those that will receive Lottie Moon help are the seminaries in Portugal (\$5,000) and in Chile (\$10,000 for a larger seminary).

Evangelism — every area will re-

ceive allocations for the direct preaching of the gospel. For instance, Mexico missionaries will have \$20,000 for radio and television evangelism, and Hong Kong missionaries will have \$7,276.

Social work — goodwill centers aid persons with human needs. Centers in North Brazil are to receive \$19,015, and Italy will use \$3,000 for a goodwill evangelistic center.

Music To Be Featured At Youth Convention

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In concert halls, on college campuses, in churches, on television or any place where they could find someone to listen, sharing the excitement of their personal relationship with Jesus Christ, according to Mr. Black.

The musical this year will be "Celebrate Life," by Beryl Red and Ragan Courtney. This is the most popular musical published by Broadman Press.

Mr. Courtney is coming and bringing with him three others who will portray the four apostles. Some 500 singers of outstanding youth choirs in the state will be singing.

This will be presented on Thursday evening of the Convention, with Billy

Jack Green, minister of music First church, Columbia, directing.

A new feature this year will be the outreach into shopping areas. There will be small folk groups singing in 14 areas on Friday, accompanied by a "support team" trained to witness in that area.

These "folk groups" will need to make all arrangements prior to December 15. Some equipment will be needed. Rev. Barry Wood and Rev. Jack Taylor, guest speakers, will be motivating and training these peo-

ple along with Rev. Joe McKeever minister of evangelism of the host church, who will coordinate the outreach activities of the Convention.

Adjudication Set for 1:30

State Youth Choir Festival adjudication will be held Thursday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Winning choirs will sing before the entire Convention on Thursday night, Friday morning and Friday night.

Registration will be held at the church Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and again at both the church and auditorium beginning at 6:00 p.m. The convention proper will begin at 4:00 o'clock at the church.

Green

The convention will be sponsored by three departments of the Convention Board, as follows: Church Training, Kermit S. King, director; Music, Dan C. Hall, director, and Evangelism, Rev. Roy Collum, secretary.

SBC Foundation — — —

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depriving these donors the privileges and blessings for which they hunger, as well as holding back added support to the various causes which so badly need more financial assistance," Berry said.

He called for three things to strengthen the work of the foundation: (1) the privilege of going out into the convention and actively offering the services of the foundation to all who need them; (2) the full support of every other SBC agency in using the services of the Foundation; and (3) the full backing and support of every member of the board of directors.

Mrs. E. W. Bass, Jr., administrative assistant, pointed out that the general fund of the foundation, largest of the funds administered and invested by the agency, reached a total of \$10,208,227 in 1972, earning an average rate of return of 5.13 per cent during the year.

She paid special tribute to the late T. L. Holcomb, executive secretary of the foundation from 1953-56, who believed so much in the foundation that he established an annuity for his mother, who was 90 at the time, and trusts for every other member of his family, including his three grandchildren. Holcomb, who was executive secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board before assuming the foundation post, died Sept. 13, 1972.

The Foundation Board of Directors re-elected Stirton Oman, a Nashville construction company executive, as its chairman.

The board, in annual session, also re-elected Nashville businessman L. B. Stevens as vice president, and banker John O. Ellis as secretary.

Also re-elected were Kendall Berry, executive secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. E. W. Bass Jr., administrative assistant.

Century Of Service

NEW YORK — It was in October 1972 that an Irish immigrant named Jerry McAuley opened the world's first Christian rescue mission on New York City's lower East Side. Today, the original McAuley Water Street Mission is gone, but the work continues in a larger, more modern building on nearby Lafayette Street. From the original "skid row" mission, the work that Jerry McAuley began has expanded into the International Union of Gospel Missions (IUGM) with some 350 missions with about 950 individual leaders and other workers.

At top is an 1890s photo of the original Helping Hand Mission that McAuley founded on Water Street. Below, a Thanksgiving dinner is enjoyed at the newer Mission, which was opened about 10 years ago. —(RNS Photo)

The last Convention approved the rebuilding of our assembly at Gulf-shore. All of us know there were some who were not in agreement with this action.

The last Convention approved the rebuilding of our assembly at Gulf-shore. All of us know there were some who were not in agreement with this action. As your president, I would defend the right to disagree and-or dissent, but it is our Convention's decision and I want to ask each pastor and lay person in this Convention to get behind this program and help us make it successful. One and-one-fourth million dollars to be raised is a big opportunity. It is not an insurmountable obstacle. With all of us working at it, praying for it, and adequately supporting it, we shall, in a few years from now, have a truly great assembly facility that can be used in a marvelous way to advance our Lord's kingdom. — David Grant

The Convention President Speaks

As a pastor, I have always tried to conduct church business on democratic principles. I have labored the point to give each person his or her say in regard to matters that are present to the church, but I have also sought to rally the entire church behind a decision the church makes. To me, this is a sign of mature Christianity and is the only formula for real progress. It takes solidarity of purpose to accomplish great things for God.

In my opinion, this same principle should prevail in our State Convention. We should have proper time to discuss the business of the Convention and each person should be given a reasonable time to share opinions, but then when the Convention votes, it becomes the responsibility of us all to support the action.

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Desoto Conducts World Missions Conference

Twenty-two of the 24 churches in the Desoto County Association participated in a week-long World Missions Conference held in November, with 22 association, state, home and foreign missionaries speaking in the various churches. Rev. Ervin Brown, Desoto superintendent, is seen in photo, seventh person from left on front row.



Clarke Class Visits Baptist Building

A class in religious education from Clarke College visited Baptist points of interest in Jackson recently under direction of Dr. James Melton, professor of religious education. The tour was in the interest of the "in-service" training program sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department, under direction of Therman Bryant, associate in department. They are seen in Baptist Building. Dr. Melton is seated on second row at extreme right, with Mr. Bryant next to him. Mrs. Marylyn Crisler, Baptist Building hostess, stands just behind Dr. Melton.



Six From State Earn Degrees At Southwestern

Six students from Mississippi will receive degrees during winter commencement exercises to be held at Southwestern Seminary, December 15, 10 a.m. Left to right, above, they are: Jimmy L. Barrentine, Master of Divinity, Crystal Springs; Donald A. Daniel, Master of Religious Education, Prentiss; Walter J. Gautier, Master of Religious Education, Moss Point; Billy M. Hayes, Master of Religious Education, Biloxi; M. Gail Hederman, Master of Religious Education, Jackson; Nathan C. Saucier, Master of Divinity, Laurel. William G. Tanner, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, former pastor at Gulfport, will be the commencement speaker.



Liberty, Carrollton, Burns Note

A noteburning service was held November 12 at Liberty Church near Carrollton. Participants are pictured, left to right: Silas DuBard, Mathis DeLoach, J. T. DuBord, Houston Heath, Ed Bailey, Rev. D. L. Edwards, pastor, Kenneth DeLoach, Clover Blair, burning the note, and Mrs. Onyx Heath.



Ingram (Prentiss) Burns Note

Ingram Church, Prentiss County had a noteburning December 3. The church built an educational building costing about \$25,000. This building was paid for in four years, left to right: Malvern William, Howard Crawford represent the Building Committee, while pastor Wallace Pannell looks on and Bobby Glover, treasurer of the church, burns the note.

Kate Durham Morgan Asks

Had You Thought About This?

THE PRESENT TIME IS ALL YOU HAVE IS ALL YOU CAN USE IS ALL YOU NEED.

No one, anywhere has more than the PRESENT. Riches cannot buy more. The POOR have it without pay. The OLD enjoy it as well as the YOUNG. The SICK cling to it ten-

aciously because they are especially impressed with its value. The WELL are glad to possess it. No one anywhere has more than the PRESENT. THE PRESENT IS ALL YOU HAVE.

The PRESENT is all you can use. Because it is all that you have to use. For Yesterday is a used - up day, To-

Dr. Criswell----

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than we realize, more things that bind us together than separate us," Criswell told the religious news reporters. "We all too often magnify the differences."

"For us to be bitter in our actions, and accusations is acting in a manner the devil can use, he said. "The better way is love."

The Southern Baptist Convention is not a member of the National Council of Churches. Although the council has sought to broaden its structure to include such groups as Roman Catholics, Southern Baptists and Missouri Synod Lutherans, no Southern Baptist body has taken action to participate in the National Council.

Tennessee Court - - -

(Continued from page 1)
"purely and exclusively for religious purposes."

Counsel for the Sunday School Board pointed out that the State Supreme Court had ruled in 1962 that most of the property was exempt and argued that the law is still the same.

The metropolitan attorney claimed that there was no reason why the publishing houses should be exempt from taxation.

The Sunday School Board has, according to its executive secretary-treasurer, James L. Sullivan, paid property tax on all properties it owns which are not used for activities related to the charter purposes of the institution since its founding in 1891.

No date has been given for the Supreme Court to hand down an opinion in the case. (Prepared by BSSB Bureau)

Christmas Spirit At Friendship

Friendship Church (Pike) Association is celebrating Christmas in many different ways. A Youth Cantata on December 10, "The Holy Birth," and a cantata by the Adult Choir on December 17, "Sing Noel," have been under direction of Clifton Williams, music director of the church, with Mrs. Jessie Toney, organist, and Mrs. Johnnie Mae Williams, pianist.

On December 20 the church family will enjoy a Christmas party and go caroling. On December 31, Cadet 1-C Dan Atwood, a senior at United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, will be the guest speaker for the Student Night at Christmas Program. Following the evening worship hour on the 31st the Youth of the church will have a Watch - Night - Service. Cadet 2-C Bob Barnes, a visitor in the home of Cadet Atwood, will bring the closing devotional for the Watch-Night Service.

"Everyone is invited to attend any and all of these services," Rev. H. Glen Schilling, pastor.

Carey Elected To College Entrance Examination Board

William Carey College has been notified by the College Entrance Examination Board in New York that it was elected to membership during the annual meeting held in St. Louis.

"On behalf of the membership, the Trustees, and the staff of the College Entrance Examination Board," read a letter to President J. Ralph Noonkester, "I want to welcome your institution as a member and to tell you that we anticipate both pleasure and benefit from the closer association which is inherent in Board wishes for the academic year 1972-73." The letter was signed by Anne B. Speirs, vice president and secretary.

Bulletin

Dr. Webb Brame, 89, died in his sleep in the Martha Coker Convalescent Home in Yazoo City, on Tuesday morning, December 12. He is survived by four daughters.

Funeral arrangements were not complete at press time, but were scheduled to be held at the First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, probably on Thursday, where Dr. Brame had served as pastor for about one third of a century.

The family has suggested that in lieu of flowers, friends send gifts to Mississippi College or to First Baptist Church, Yazoo City.

A full story concerning Dr. Brame will be carried in next week's Record.

Cheerfulness and contentment are great beautifiers, and are famous preservers of youthful looks.

morrow is not a certainty for any of us. So Truly TODAY IS ALL YOU CAN USE, as it is ALL YOU HAVE to use.

THE PRESENT IS ALL YOU NEED. There is a fine line drawn between what we WANT and what we NEED. Knowing this, wise persons see that whatever is MOST pressing gets FIRST place in the order of business. A greater allotment of time is designated to take care of first things FIRST. Lesser things take lesser segments of the day. So you see that when kept to the NEEDS, we do have enough time.

THE PRESENT IS ALL YOU HAVE, IS ALL YOU CAN USE, IS ALL YOU NEED.

Thursday, December 14, 1972

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3



150 Attend Regional Joint Meeting Of Southern-National Baptists

About 150 people attended the first of a series of regional conferences in which pastors and laymen from both Southern Baptist and National Baptist churches meet together. The first of the series, being sponsored by the department of work with National Baptists, Rev. Dick Brogan, director, was held at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City Dec. 9 with Owen Cooper, of Yazoo City, president of the SBC, serving as co-sponsor. The conference began at 9:45 a.m. and adjourned about 1:15 p.m. following lunch at the church. Several leaders at-

tending meeting are seen as follows, from left: Mr. Brogan; Dr. T. B. Brown, Jackson, president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary; Mr. Cooper; Dr. David Grant, Jackson, president of Mississippi Baptist Convention; Rev. James Yates, host pastor; Benny Gooden, Clarksdale, and Dr. Glendon McCullough, Memphis, executive director of Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, who substituted on program for Dr. Emmanuel McCall, of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, who was unable to arrive because of flight difficulties.

Heart-Warming Letter Gives Unusual Report Of Christian Work Among Navy Men In Pacific

(NOTE: The following letter is from a 23-year-old, unmarried torpedoman stationed in Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. It is written to his grandfather, a Mississippian.)

Dear Granddaddy:

It has been a while since I last wrote to you, so I thought it would be a good thing to write. I am trying to develop the habit of writing to at least one person each night. So far I am doing OK. Of course, this is only the third night, but the fact that I have never written more than two days in a row, makes it somewhat of a record.

I guess that you have already heard from Mom that I have been extended here until the month of May next year. It was not my idea, but in the Navy's drive to save money they are not transferring anyone with less than fifteen months to go in his enlistment unless he signs a statement to ship over (sign on for at least 4 years). Being that I have no desire to stay in the Navy, I will have to stay here for six more months. To which I must say, praise the Lord.

The other day I was informed of one of the most thrilling stor-

ies of God's working on a ship that I have ever heard, and it is still going on. An ammunition ship left the States about four months ago with two Christians on board; by the time they got to Subic Bay there were eight. They stayed here for a few days, and in that time two more were added. They left here for the coast of Viet-Nam for a fifty-day deployment with ten Christians on board. By the time they came in port last week the number of Christians had increased to fifty. This is on a ship of a few hundred men, and in just a few months' time. It is truly amazing what the power of prayer can do, and what God can do with just a few that want to let Him use them. The ship did not have a chaplain, for it is too small to rate one. Many of the men might have had a Christian background, but it is rare for a ship to have more than 5% active, confessing Christians, much less over 10% of them. Praise the Lord. I have been reading through the Bible as well as working on a study series. I have finished the New Testament and almost finished Job in the Old. I am really impressed with Job. He is such a real character, or I

should say person. I will go back at a later date and read and try to study the book in depth.

A group of about one hundred persons, adults and students, are getting together to sing the Messiah this December. I am one of them. I have never sung it before, and it is all new to me. I like it, and the group that we have should be able to blow the roof off the chapel. The people in charge of the production are going to get a twenty-five piece orchestra from Manila to play for us. All in all, it should be fantastic.

I have been over here one day less than two years. In that time I have asked several times of my Mom to send me the addresses of some of the folks down our way. I also asked Aunt Doris before I left. Their memories have not been too good, and I have forgotten to re-ask Mom. The point that I am trying to make is this, could you please round them up and send them to me by that I could write them a "How-do-you-do"?

Well, it is time for me to sign off and go to choir practice. I will write again soon.

With richest blessings and all my love.

Steve

Convention Constitution Guarantees Autonomy, He States

North Carolina Baptists' Parliamentary Rules Convention Resolution Illegal

WINSTON - SALEM, N. C. (RNS) — The parliamentarian of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention has declared a resolution passed at the 1972 meeting "null and void" because, he said, it conflicts with a constitutional provision that gives autonomy to local churches.

Despite his statement, however, the chairman of a committee established by the resolution indicated that the committee would proceed with the business delegated to it in the resolution.

"Alien baptism," the practice of accepting members from other denominations without requiring that they be baptized by immersion, was the original issue that led to the resolution. Some Southern Baptist congregations in the state reportedly were engaging in this practice (accepting members without requiring

baptism by immersion).

The 1972 convention adopted a resolution declaring that "we reaffirm and declare our conviction that believers' baptism by immersion in water is the teaching of the New Testament and should be a requirement for members in any church that calls itself Baptist."

Addressing the issue of local autonomy, the resolution said that although such autonomy permits congregations to decide for themselves whether to permit "alien baptism," "Christian love and welfare of our denomination override such freedom."

It directed Rev. Tom M. Freeman of Dunn, N. C., president of the state convention, to appoint an 11-member committee to work out a solution to the problem and to urge the churches "in love and for the sake of har-

mony and our labors together to comply with this request."

After the convention closed, Dr. James M. Bulman of Oak Ridge, its parliamentarian, said that under the state convention's constitution, a convention committee "has no right to interfere" with a local church "in the manner prescribed by the resolution." For this reason, he said, he considers the resolution to be "null and void."

Mr. Freeman said he intended to carry out the convention's wish despite Dr. Bulman's opinion, but said he would not appoint the committee until after Jan. 1.

Following the convention, Knollwood Baptist church of Winston-Salem held a special session to consider a proposal to permit "alien baptism" for its members. The resolution was defeated.

Missionary Says That Nixon's Church Visit In Moscow Strengthened Russian Christians

PHOENIX (RNS) — President Nixon's visit to a Moscow church last May "provided considerable courage and strength to Russian Christians," a White Russian missionary said here.

Speaking at the National Missionary Convention, sponsored by the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ (an independent fellowship), the Rev. John K. Huk, 64, said that the President's visit to the church was "a setback for Soviet propaganda that claims only the ignorant follow Christian doctrine."

Mr. Huk said that he preached at the church shortly after the President's visit. Commenting on the Nixon visit, he said: "Here comes the first citizen of the United States and he comes to church."

Christians in Russia are denied better jobs by the Russian government

because they "refute atheism," according to Mr. Huk. He has tried to strengthen the Christian witness there by giving pocket-size Russian Orthodox Bibles to tourists for distribution in Russia.

Mr. Huk, who now lives in Toronto, joined about 7,000 other persons at the convention, which was the first major gathering to be held in the new Phoenix Civic Plaza.

Gifts Exceed Annie Armstrong Goal First Time Since 1966

ATLANTA (BP) — Thanksgiving was especially significant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

For the first time since 1966, contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions exceeded the goal.

A report from Maryland, received

the day before Thanksgiving, boosted the 1972 gifts through the special home missions offering to \$6,031,349.

Surpassing the \$6 million goal will aid the evangelistic television program, "Spring Street, USA," which the board expects to launch next February, as well as support for new areas of work.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL

The Keynote Of Christmas--The Virgin Birth

The central truth of Christmas is the Virgin Birth of Jesus. This is the key-stone to the whole Christmas message, indeed, of the whole Jesus Christ message.

Without the Virgin Birth Christmas is just another day, and the birth of this baby means nothing more than millions of other births which occur each year.

Without the Virgin Birth there is no Christmas, no gospel, no revelation from God, no salvation, no church, no hope.

Liberals have rejected this Biblical record, saying that it is not essential to the Christ event, but they are mistaken. Without the Virgin Birth there is no Christ event that means anything to the world.

Dr. Howard Kelly, late professor of Hopkins University, one of the greatest scientists of the last generation, and a devout Christian, said, "The virgin birth is the great key to the Bible storehouse. If I reject the virgin birth, the New Testament becomes a dead, man-made letter recounting the well-intentioned imaginings of honest but misguided men."

Consider the great fundamentals of the Christian faith which depend upon the Virgin Birth:

- the Deity of Jesus Christ.
- the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- the Saviourhood of Jesus Christ.
- the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

—the Return of Jesus Christ.

—the Son relationship of Jesus with the Father

—the new birth of the believer

—the authority of the Bible.

—the testimony of New Testament writers.

—the testimony of millions of believers through the ages that they have been saved.

Without the Virgin Birth not a single one of these basic things is true.

So Christianity becomes a sham; there is no hope!

BUT THE RECORD OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS TRUE!

All the proof that any person with an open mind ever will need to believe is available to all.

—The Virgin Birth was prophesied thousands of years before it happened.

—Angelic messengers from heaven foretold it.

—The testimony of Mary says it is true.

—The testimony of Joseph is that it is true.

—The testimony of the writers of the gospels is that it is true. One of those writers was a doctor. What better testimony is needed?

—The claims of Jesus make clear that it is true.

—The works and miracles of Jesus are evidence that it is true.

—The death and resurrection of Je-

sus Christ prove that it is true.

—The beliefs of the New Testament Christians give credence that it is true.

—The words of Paul prove that it is true.

—The writings of the early church prove that it was believed by the early fathers. This gives proof that it is true.

—The experience of Christians in redemption proves that it is true.

The only arguments against it are the arguments of unbelief. Not one scintilla of proof that it is not true ever has been advanced.

As we come to Christmas, we need to remember that it is something special.

The baby in the manger is a special person — he is the Son of God. Never did another who was born of woman pre-exist as he did; never was one conceived as he was conceived; never was one born as he was born, with only one human parent; never did one live as he lived, die as he died, or rise from the dead as he arose; never is one returning in glory and power as he is to come.

Christmas is really meaningful because we read in Matt. 1:22-23: "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.'"



"AND THE WORD
WAS MADE FLESH,
AND DWELT
AMONG US."
— JOHN 1:14

THEY MEET IN ONE

THE BAPTIST FORUM

Reminds Baptists Of Responsibility For Parchman Inmates

Dear Dr. Odle:

I want to thank you for your recent article in the Baptist Record concerning my work at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The Lord has really blessed us through your article, coming as it did during our State Convention. Church members, Sunday school classes, Bible study groups and mission groups throughout the state have adopted Parchman as an object of prayer as a result.

For far too long the people of Mississippi, including members and leaders of the Baptist churches have regarded Parchman as a place where "bad people" should be isolated from society and punished for their "badness." But if Christians would just stop and think for a moment, they would realize that Parchman is one of the largest mental hospitals in the state. And if we Baptists would but think for a moment longer, we would realize that the greatest responsibility for developing this field rests upon Mississippi Baptists.

The opportunity and responsibility in this area is great. The average offender spends slightly less than four years in the penitentiary and then returns to his community. During these four years it is our task to bring about a change in his life and thinking which will assure that he returns to society as a worthwhile, productive, law-abiding citizen.

Admittedly, this is a difficult task, but it can be done. Whether or not it is done depends, in large measure, on the interest and support of the average citizens. Christian citizens especially should be aware of their responsibility in this area, for through their prayers and support not only can men be rehabilitated, they can be saved and made new creatures in Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that as Mississippi Baptists become increasingly aware of the needs and opportunities at Parchman they will assume a more prominent role in assisting with our work. At the present time we need many people who are willing to engage in volunteer work; we also need people who are willing to become friends with individual inmates; but most of all we need people who are willing to provide guidance, fellowship and moral support to inmates who are returning to society. As these men re-enter society they desperately need to know that someone cares and will hold them up as they strive to adjust to a free society.

Finally, let me say that while we are doing a progressively better job here at Parchman, real success and accomplishment will come only when the citizens of Mississippi—especially the Christian citizens—make a firm commitment, supported by positive action, to work toward total rehabilitation of Parchman's inmates. Here lies the challenge and responsibility of Mississippi Baptists.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to you and the many others who are praying for us and supporting our efforts. Even now we are feeling and seeing the effect of this prayer and find ourselves in the midst of a growing spiritual awakening among both inmates and employees. Please continue to lift us in prayer.

J. D. Lundy
Assistant Superintendent
Miss. State Penitentiary
Parchman, Ms. 38738

Retired Pastor Offers Books For Sale

My Dear Friends:

This is a fractional, but factual report on my 16 years of so-called ministerial retirement, ending December 31, 1972. These years have been spent in interim pastorates, revivals, building programs, the publishing of two well-selling books, with a third book manuscript pending.

At my 60th Anniversary Celebration at



A Woman's World Reaches Far

Beyond the Ironing Board

Wilda Fancher

The other day James and I put on our hunting gear and armed ourselves with charge cards, blank checks, and a little cash and went into the wilds of the concrete jungles on our first Christmas shopping expedition. At downtown McRae's in Jackson we ran into a friend who urged us to go up to see the nativity scenes before we left. We took the time to heed his advice and were so glad that we did. As we walked through the most attractive exhibit of animated figures depicting the Christmas story, James said, "We'll have to bring the boys to see this."

Then we looked at each other and had a real laugh over the spectacle we would make leading six - foot - four - inch tall Bobby and six - foot - three - inch Frank and five - foot - nine - inch Jim through the scenes, saying "See the pretty stars look at the lambs. There's Baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph."

After we finished laughing about that, James said, "You know, it's a little sad not to have any little boys at Christmas time any more, isn't it?" We talked about it for a little while, and I thought about it a long time, as I'm sure James did.

My conclusion is that it really isn't sad not to have little boys at Christmas time. It really is joyful to have the children grow and to see Christmas in principles instead of in presents. It is reassuring at Christmas time now to hear the boys express faith in the grown - up, resurrected Christ whom they thought of as a little baby when they were little boys. It is delightful to see them finding the spirit of Christ working through their lives to help them have the resources which they need in both sadness and joy.

That may be why I sort of like Easter better than Christmas.

The Mt. Harmony Church (near Greenwood, Ark.) in September, 1968, a spontaneous movement began without my consent, requesting me to write a lengthy manuscript for the Baptist Archives entitled "My 60 Years With Southern Baptists." This task is now nearing the halfway mark. I need money to pay my capable typist and filling woman in order to finish this long story and the addendum articles — filing of letters, clippings, papers, etc., along with boxing a few precious out-of-print books.

To supplement this typing fund, I am offering my left-over copies of my two publications at less than half price as follows:

- (1) The Commissioned Churches in the Current Crisis — paper binding, \$1.00 per copy; black and gold cloth binding \$2.00.
- (2) The small (87 pages) but splendid little book, The Grace of God in Genesis — paper binding, \$1.00.

These books make good Christmas or any other special gifts. Order from the author: O. M. Stallings, 1931 Duncan, Conway, Arkansas 72032.

Thank you very much.
O. M. Stallings, 1931 Duncan Street, Conway, Ark.

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JBS--January Bible Study

January Bible Study has become a tradition with Southern Baptists, almost as much of an institution as the Sunday school, the Church Training program, or the Vacation Bible School.

It was many years ago that Southern Baptists began to promote January Bible Study as an added period of Bible study in the churches. So popular has the idea become that now, thousands of churches observe the period each year. Not always is the program carried out in the same week, but usually some time in January, or as soon thereafter as possible, the churches now set a special week of study of a specific book of the Bible for all young people and adults. In many churches, related studies also are offered for younger groups.

This year the chosen book for JBS is

the book of Galatians. A textbook commentary has been written for use in this week and has been published by the Convention Press of the Sunday School Board. Numerous other supplementary commentaries also have appeared, many of them written by Southern Baptist pastors and scholars. We have reviewed much of this material in the Baptist Record.

A denomination which majors upon the Bible, as does the Southern Baptist Convention, certainly can find a valuable addition to its witness in study such as is provided in the special week. Many of us can remember the blessing the week has brought to us through the many years it has been observed. I would not attempt to call to mind the various studies, but how

can we forget Psalms, Isaiah, Job, Matthew, Romans, Hebrews, 1 Corinthians, the epistles of John, or Studies in Prayer, Studies of the Church, the Sermon on the Mount and others. All of these left an unforgettable impression in the hearts of tens of thousands of Southern Baptists who were blessed by the week in their churches.

It is our hope that hundreds of Mississippi churches will offer to their members this January's special study of Galatians. This great epistle of Paul helps make very clear the truths of the redemptive message, and destroys false teachings that have sought to displace it. Let thousands of Mississippi Baptists study Galatians in January, and they will be better Christians throughout the new year because of it.

casions for church fellowship such as senior citizens' dinner, mother-daughter tea, etc., and are adaptable also to civic functions or to private entertaining.

DISCIPLINES FOR LIFE IN THE AGE OF AQUARIUS by Lance Webb (Word, 177 pp., \$4.95) Some of those who follow the signs of the Zodiac evidently are saying we are entering into a new age which they are calling the age of Aquarius, the age of the man with the water pitcher. The hope for the age is that it will be a time of peace, harmony and understanding. The author, who is a Methodist Bishop, tells of his own experience in finding a way to a life of peace and love. The book actually is a testimony of one man's spiritual pilgrimage.

PEOPLE LOVERS by William S. Taegel (Word, 144 pp., \$3.95) The author tells his own personal experience in learning how to love people. He discusses how people can love God, but not have any concern about those who are about them. He discusses the condition of many people in this troubled world and how they do need somebody who loves God and knows him to love them and help them to find God.

THE SCIENTIFIC AND HUMOROUS REVELATIONS OF GOD by Paul John Raabe (Exposition, 66 pp., \$3.00) The author claims to have had a revelation from God or a divine experience that led to the writing of this book. He presents the theory which he calls "I" and "O" and says that divine truth is based on the presence or absence of those letters in any given word or phrase. "O" represents God and "I" represents the image of God or man. Things which do not have the "O" in them should be disapproved or done away with. This is an unusual approach to life's meaning.

GROWING OLD IS A FAMILY AFFAIR by Dorothy Bertolet Fritz (John Knox Press, 96 pp., \$2.50, paper) This book is addressed largely to men and women in their middle years — who are responsible for training the young and taking care of the old. The author feels that everyone should begin at an early age to prepare for old age — to become the kind of person who will be a satisfaction to himself and all around him, as long as he lives.

THE EXPLO STORY by Paul Esheleman and Norman Rohrer (Regal, 111 pp., paper, \$1.45) The subtitle is "A Plan to Change the World" and the foreword is by Bill Bright, who is director of Christian Crusade for Christ. This is the report on the In-

ternational Student Congress on Evangelism which was held in Dallas, Texas in June, 1972. The excitement of the planning and of the meeting itself. The meaning of its witness, the thrill of its power and fellowship, are all depicted in these pages. There are many, many illustrations and the cover shows the great crowd which gathered for the closing concert and message. Whatever ones attitude may be toward the whole Campus Crusade program, he must acknowledge their witness to Christ as Saviour and the tremendous meaning to youth of this great gathering in Dallas. The full story is recorded here.

EDUCATION...what's happening

Campus Security Chiefs Rate Theft Top Problem

Upsurging thievery, overflow parking and vandalism have replaced student militancy and confrontations as major campus security problems.

That's the consensus of the security chiefs of 58 leading Eastern colleges with a student and academic population of more than 1,000,000, according to a recent survey by Burns Security Institute, non-profit crime study organization.

The security directors believe campus demonstrations and bomb threats are on the wane. They are now more concerned about combating what they believe is the rocketing incidence of theft and other crimes, the survey reveals.

The survey shows opinion divided on whether drug usage is increasing. Eighteen see narcotics as a larger problem, 16 as lesser and 24, about the same. In general, the security officers do not view narcotics as one of their top five problems.

Sending children to college educates parents. It teaches them to do without a lot of things.

"Education's role in the future will be to balance technical competency with human sensibility. The campus must cooperate with leaders from business and industry, federal and state government, labor, the media, and the church to mount a massive saturation-type program of education to transform national values. If this fails to occur, a tyrant will emerge, one who will promise to relieve our chaos, re-establish order, set priorities and enforce them. The end of this sequence will be totalitarianism."

—Dr. Warren Byrum, Martin College Management, July

NEWEST BOOKS

RALLY TO REAL LIFE (Pastor's Package) by Morton Rose S. S. Board, (Materials Services Dept., SBC., \$2.75) "Rally to Real Life" is the title which has been given to a new planned program for church revival, which has been developed by the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board, and this is the "Pastors Package" presenting that program. The program is based upon the concept that there are numerous things which a church must do if it is to experience a great revival that touches every member. While recognizing that revivals must come from God, the developers of this plan believe that there are some things which the church can do to get itself into a position where God can send revival blessings. The set includes a Pastor's Manual with a complete schedule of activities of many weeks of preparation for the RALLY, and then the details of day by day activities during the meeting itself. Included are samples of various materials such as advertising folders, tracts, visitation cards, song sheets, etc., etc. As one reads and examines these materials he is convinced that following such a program ought to bless any church and prepare it for a God given revival experience.

LIVING IS NOW by D. A. Blakelock (Baker, paper, 127 pp., \$1.50) This is a book for counselors and also those who need counseling. The author, a Christian doctor, maintains that by undertaking a day-by-day program of trust in Christ for help, real progress can be made in controlling abnormal reactions and thought habits as well as tensions of both long and short duration.

TUNE IN by Daniel R. Seagren (Baker, paper, \$1.25, 150 pp.) Lively discussion starters for youth groups.

WHERE DO I GO TO BUY HAPPINESS? by Elizabeth Skoglund (InterVarsity Press, 157 pp., \$3.95) A Christian counselor in California explains how to help alleviate the personal hangups of young people frustrated by life.

FOOD FOR FELLOWSHIP COOKBOOK by Antoinette Kuzmanich Hatfield (Word Books, 137 pp., \$4.95) In this attractive and colorfully illustrated new cookbook, the wife of Oregon Senator Mark O. Hatfield shares imaginative, prized recipes of her own and of close friends, and her well-tested cooking and serving techniques. Instructions are clear and easy. Recipes are arranged into 24 sections, according to around-the-clock oc-

"Suffer The Little Children To Come Unto Me..."

By Anne Washburn McWilliams
"Open the Door for the Children!" — the theme song rings out with enthusiastic vigor. "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight," — the five-year-old voices are clear and sweet. In readiness for Thanksgiving time, the recital of the 100th Psalm is flawless. As usual, over 200 of the 247 children enrolled are present at Hart Baptist Center. On Bell Street in Jackson, the 4's and 5's are singing; the 3's are molding clay; the 2's are learning to say a prayer of thanksgiving. From every doorway floats a steady hum of voices, but the sound is disciplined and orderly; it is a happy sound, like the sound of water bubbling over pebbles in a brook — but occasionally rising to the rushing of a waterfall.

Five days a week for twenty years, from before 6:30 in the morning, until after 6 at night, this scenery has been the beautifully woven tapestry of Mrs. Connie Rudd's life. Director of the Center, Mrs. Rudd is a missionary appointed by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Though the children stay from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Mrs. Rudd arrives early and stays late. So strongly does she feel the responsibility, so deeply does she love the children, that for twenty years she has not taken one single vacation. "Always there would be a group coming to visit, or a meeting I didn't need to miss, or a job I needed to do," she explains.

The Hart Center provides day care for black children, nursery and kindergarten ages, whose mothers or both parents work. It is sponsored by Hinds - Madison Baptist Association, with support help from the Home Mission Board, SBC; the Department of Work with Baptists, of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and interested individuals and groups.

This fall, at the Hinds - Madison Association's annual meeting, Mrs. Rudd was present to give her yearly report. Instead, there awaited her a well deserved and joyous surprise. After the association (Rev. Fred Tarpley, superintendent of missions) presented to her a plaque of appreciation for her twenty years of service, they informed her that interested friends in Hinds and Madison Counties were giving her a trip to the Holy Land.

At long last — if she can be per-

suaded to leave her 247 children — Mrs. Rudd is to have a vacation! In February, 1973, she will visit Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt, with a tour group to be conducted by Mr. Tarpley.

"At the Center we take care of children from the avenues or the alleys," says Mrs. Rudd. "A small fee of \$3 a week is paid by those who can pay. We are open longer hours than any children's center in the city. Parents who work long hours need a place to leave their children long hours."

While the activities are myriad, there is special emphasis on providing a Christian atmosphere and training such as children should receive in a good Christian home.

Calling it the Children's Nook, the late Miss Gertrude Hart started this day care center in her home in 1948, and later rented a larger place. The Home Mission Board built the present brick building in 1960. After Miss Hart's death, the center was named for her.

Mrs. Wilburn Buckley and Mrs. G. A. Carothers, members of WMU of First Church, Jackson, presented Miss Hart's case to the Hinds Association and this work was adopted by the association in 1953. Through the years, supplements of food and other needs have been provided by Hinds - Madison WMU members.

With sixteen competent staff members to help (teachers, teachers' aides, dietitian, secretary, assistant to the director, maintenance man, and two drivers of station wagons that pick up children without transportation) — numerous activities are kept flowing smoothly through the long days: pre - primer work for five - year - olds; creative art, singing, rhythm band, dramatizations, music, Bible stories, helping with chores, storytelling, sharing toys, religious training, educational tours, picnics, extracurricular activities, special programs and parties at Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, graduation time, etc. rest period, play periods in the fenced back yard.

A wholesome, nutritious hot meal is served at mid - day, always including milk; a snack with fruit juice (often Koolaid) is given in morning and afternoon.

At PTA meetings, parents and teachers plan for the welfare of the children. The Center gives Mrs. Rudd an opportunity to witness to the parents and to guide them, too.

in the building of Christian homes. The children, who are encouraged to attend church, often lead their parents to want to go to church and to become Christians.

Every morning at 10:30 is devotional time when Mrs. Rudd, a "natural" at storytelling, relates Bible stories. She begins with Genesis 1:1; the children memorize that. Then, as she tells the whole creation story, the children memorize other references as they go along. She says she tries to tell the stories in sequence so that through the year the children can follow the whole story of the Bible as it is written. Just before Christmas she begins the stories leading up to the birth of the Saviour. At Christmas she takes no vacation, for there is a Vacation Bible School then, as well as another in June. (The Center is open to children all year except one week in August.) This summer five young people enrolled in the Neighborhood Youth Corporation came to help in Bible school.

In addition to the 100th Psalm, the five - year - olds can say the 23rd Psalm, the Ten Commandments, the 21st Psalm, the Beatitudes, and quote numerous single Scripture verses with references.

Though Saturday is called her "day off," Mrs. Rudd always uses a part of that day to work with the young people in her church in Bible study and Christian fellowship meetings. (She is a member of the Morning Star Baptist Church next door to the Hart Center.) The first week in December the young people present a program which they call "Unlock the Yuletide Season." As leader of the Women's Missions League, Mrs. Rudd meets with the women's group at least one Sunday afternoon each month.

In her "spare time," this talented and creative woman writes children's plays. Ideas for these often come when she awakens in the middle of the night. In addition to her own original plays, she paraphrases familiar stories in simple dialogue which will be easy for the children to dramatize. She has done "Cinderella," the Christmas story, "The Lighted Torch," "The Little Lost Angel," and many others. It is plain that her thoughts, waking and sleeping, are always with the children.

She explains, "We do things TO the children. We talk things over with them. What would you like to do, and discuss plans with them. Children like not being talked down to."

She likes to see the children eat in a leisurely and dignified, polite way, never to eat in a rush so that they have to leave food uneaten.

She keenly feels her responsibility to the association and to the Home Mission Board, and makes a financial report to the association every week. As a good housewife would, she takes pride in avoiding waste and in doing

"everything as it ought to be done." She makes grocery lists for the Center and buys groceries and supplies.

"I lost my mother when I was five," she says. "I guess this is one reason why my heart goes out to small children."

Connie Rudd was born near Clinton in the home of her maternal grandfather, Jim Jeffries, a Baptist minister. After her mother's death Connie lived with her aunt, Sophronia Jackson. (Her Uncle Allen Jackson, also a Baptist minister, taught school for 63 years.) The young girl went to school at Shady Bower in Clinton and at Magnolia School in Bolton. Later she attended Jackson State in the summers. At eleven she accepted Christ and was baptized in the Ty-Walter Baptist Church, Bolton, where she was visiting relatives.

For a while she was an elementary school teacher and then operated a beauty shop in Jackson while educating her own two children. Her husband, Joshua Rudd, died six years ago. A construction worker and a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, he helped to build, pave, and construct many buildings, streets, and highways in Jackson and other cities.

Mrs. Rudd's son, Willie Albert, now in the lathing trade in Chicago, has three children, a boy and two girls. Her daughter, Mrs. Ernestine Potts, teaches at Mary Morrison Elementary School in Jackson. After graduating from Jackson State, Mrs. Potts earned her master's degree from Columbia University in New York.

About 22 years ago, when her daughter was a senior in college, and when Mrs. Rudd was working in her second - story beauty shop, she could look out the window and see children wandering in the streets "like lambs without a shepherd." Many were improperly cared for and needed love, food, and training. She wanted to do something for the children but needed the income from her beauty shop to help educate her son and daughter. She began to pray that God would show her a way.

She remembers, "When I read John 21:15-16 I felt that Christ was asking me if I loved him and that he was telling me to feed his lambs and his sheep. I answered the call by converting my shop into a day care center. By faith I got a carpenter to add a room. Through prayer and the cooperation of friends, I had chairs, tables, and children's furniture made. I rented the vacant lot adjoining me for a playground. I bought playground equipment on installment plan. My son and his friends built a fence around the vacant lot and helped me to clean and paint 'The Children's Castle.'"

In a very few weeks she had 63 enrolled, ages 2 to 6. Some parents paid a small fee; others pro-

mised to pay later. She could hire no helper, but a blind friend gave time to the work, playing music, teaching songs, telling Bible stories. Some children came before 6 a.m. and stayed until after 6 p.m. Mrs. Rudd cooked breakfast for her family — and then cooked a lunch for 63 children. She says, "We had a wonderful time! I felt like nurse, teacher, and mother all in one."

"At the close of each day my body was tired but my heart was happy," she recalls. "Before the children left we would plan the dinner for the next day. I would show them pictures of different kinds of food and explain their benefits. They helped me water the flowers and garden. We had a garden in back where I got fresh vegetables in summer and fall. I canned the fruit we used for the pies, and I made gingerbread and cookies. On weekends I would cook jars of cookies to use for afternoon snacks."

"The Lord blessed in many ways. The meat we used came from our own cattle and hogs. As I worked with the children, I found that many of the parents were unsaved. This gave me opportunity to tell them of Christ and his love. Many of the children had never been to Sunday school, nor any of the church activities. I took as many as I could in the car to Sunday school. We took tours in the city and country. The happiest time was devotional period when they learned to sing, pray, and recite Bible verses and passages of scripture. It delighted my heart to see them all sit and listen to a Bible story so attentively."

The work went on for three years; then Mrs. Rudd became ill and the doctor told her she needed a rest. There was no money to employ someone to carry on the work, for most parents were unable to pay even the small fee that was asked.

"With heavy heart I went to tell the children we would have to close until I recovered," she remembers. "The children came and put their arms around me and said, 'Please don't close.' One little girl climbed on my lap, looked in my face and with a sober, sincere look in her eyes said, 'I will pray for you and you will get well, just like the woman in the Bible story you told us about. You told us that the woman had faith that God would heal her.' My heart was happy to know that some of the seeds I had planted had fallen on good soil. I didn't close the Castle. The words of the child helped me to take courage and increase my faith in God. We remained open until the school term was out. I was able to pay the workers and I managed to fix the food each day."

"After taking a rest all summer I felt strong again and was eager to work with children again."

During this time Miss Gertrude Hart was working long hours at the Children's Nook on Farish Street. She needed workers, so Mrs. Rudd decided to go and work with her, in August of 1952.

Her devotion to the Nook (now Hart Center) has been just as faithful as that given to her own Children's Castle. While Miss Hart worked as director, teacher and cook, Mrs. Rudd taught, supervised, served meals, and then washed dishes while the children rested. On weekends in the first 14 years Miss Hart would conduct rummage sales to raise funds for Center needs. Then the WMU workers came to the rescue "like angels of mercy."

After Miss Hart died in 1965, Mrs. Rudd continued to work at the Center. The following year she was appointed as missionary worker with children by the Home Mission Board, SBC, and was commissioned in a special service at First Baptist Church, Toccoa, Georgia, on May 1, 1966. Then with the consent of the president and members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the superintendent of missions and members of Hinds Baptist Association, she was employed as director of the Hart Baptist Center. She considers it a "great responsibility and a happy privilege to be trusted with these precious young lives."

Remembering that Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me," Connie Rudd has given herself unselfishly and completely to the task of carrying out His command: "Feed my lambs."

Through the Hart Center, many Baptists are joining hands in carrying out His command: "Feed my lambs."

Mrs. Lucille Durr, the dietitian. The capable Mrs. Mannery helps in many capacities such as bookkeeping, corresponding, programs, and mimeograph work for the classrooms. Mrs. Earlean Gross pictured, is the dependable and cooperative assistant to the director.



Hinds - Madison Association in their fall meeting presented to Mrs. Connie Rudd, shown above in her office, a plaque of appreciation for her twenty years of service to Hart Baptist Center. (She is also to receive a gift trip to the Holy Land.) The photograph on the wall above Mrs. Rudd is that of the late Miss Gertrude Hart, for whom the Center is named.

Promotion Men Are Named For Glorieta and Ridgecrest

NASHVILLE (BP) — Two Southern Baptist Sunday School Board employees have been named to positions as program and promotion specialists for Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

Larry Haslam, consultant in the church recreation department, will be the specialist at Ridgecrest; while Bill Lowry, supervisor of food services at Glorieta, will assume the new responsibilities there.

In their new positions, Haslam and Lowry will promote the use of the conference center facilities by board personnel, Southern Baptist Convention agency personnel, other Baptist groups and church leaders, and other appropriate groups. They also will be responsible for designing, promoting and conducting programmed activities and conferences.

"Sick With Shame" But Years Too Late

The following article first appeared in "Letters to the Editor" in the newspaper in Warsaw, Indiana.

"Three months ago I sat in a court room and heard a judge say '20 years.' He was pronouncing sentence on my 21 year-old son, a punishment for drinking, gambling and robbery which ended in the shooting and near death of a man.

"The sentence might have been less, but my son took a sneering, defiant attitude all through court, ridiculing every law officer who spoke to him. But the crowning, shocking climax came when the judge sternly asked, 'Young Man, don't you believe in God?' He laughed long and loud as he said, 'God, Who's that?' Every eye in the court room turned to look at me.

"I went to Sunday School when I was small and learned all about God. After I was married I decided to go again and take my children. I could not persuade my husband to go, but the children and I went regularly for a year. Then I skipped a Sunday. Soon I skipped two, or three, then we went only on special days.

"Soon I joined a bowling team that competed on Sunday afternoons. I could not go to church and get ready and leave in time to bowl and bowling was such fun.

"If only I had those years to live over. Night after night I've paced the floor with the word 'God, who's that?' echoing in my ears.

"My son was 13 the Sunday the police came as I was leaving with my bowling bag. I waited impatiently while he told me my son had been caught breaking a window the night before. I practically forgot about it and went on my merry way. By now church was a thing of the past. The years went by — to end up in a court room.

"When I think of the wasted years of 'having fun' instead of meeting God at his appointed place, I am sick with shame. I'm trying to make restitution by urging others to go."

—From Bulletin, FBC, Starkville



The Hart Baptist Center building on Bell Street in Jackson was erected in 1960 by the Home Mission Board, SBC.



Some four-year-olds climb the jungle gym in the fenced playground.



Roses bloomed in November in the beautifully landscaped yard of the Hart Baptist Center. Mrs. Rudd, director of the Center, is pictured with some of the five-year-olds.



The two-year-olds say a prayer of thanks.



The five-year-olds sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World," and repeat the 100th Psalm.



Mrs. Thomasine Mannery, part-time secretary, left, is pictured with

The gifts to State Missions Week of Prayer (Margaret Lackey) are listed as received from January 1, 1972 through November 30, 1972 with 796 churches participating. At that time total gifts amounted to \$115,547.35.

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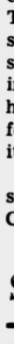
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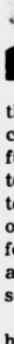
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DECLA

Blue Mountain To Inaugurate Evening Classes

Blue Mountain College announces the inauguration of evening classes beginning January 15, 1973. Because the college is eager to offer her facilities and curriculum to people in this area, courses which represent various areas, interests, and needs will be taught on the campus on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9:30.

Admission to evening classes is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. High school seniors who have at least a B average and the approval of their principal will also be admitted.

A choice of four programs of study will give students and adults an opportunity to direct their own program of continuing education. Blue Mountain College is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Credits from the college are transferable, and all courses offered are approved for veteran training. Teachers who need to renew a class A certificate may enroll for any course offered that they have not previously taken. Those interested in working toward a bachelor's degree and who wish to receive credit for courses taken in the evening classes must meet admission requirements of the college as a regular degree student.

Individuals who are interested in continuing their adult education and who are not interested in a bachelor's degree program (college credit) may enroll on a non-credit basis. A fourth alternative is also available for those who in the future wish to be admitted to Blue Mountain College as regular students but who at the present time do not qualify for admission. These individuals may earn "reserve" credit in evening classes. A student may then after acceptance into this college as a regular student have these "reserve" credits transferred into valid semester hour credits.

Persons interested in evening classes should contact the Dean of the College by January 1, 1973.

Church Training



Pictured are children and youth from several churches who participated in the Youth Bible Drill and the Bible Explorers Drill last spring.



Already Children's Leaders and Youth Leaders are working with boys and girls during church training time and in special sessions seeking to prepare them for participation in similar state drills which will be conducted early in May of next year.

The real goal, of course, is not just participation but the learning of scripture and the attainment of skill in using the Bible.

Leaflets listing the drill procedures and scripture to be used are available from the Church Training Department.

In the top picture are those participating in the Youth Bible Drill from CALVARY CHURCH, TUPELO. Front row: Tammy Breeding, Joy Gravlee, Fran Miller, Sherri White. Back row: Clay Stewart, Susie White, Tom Whitten, Don Whitten, Ricky Johnson, Beverly Stewart. This church also had twelve participants in the Bible Explorers' Drill.

Just below the Calvary group are pictured participants in the Bible Explorers' Drill in Winston Association last year. These are Renee Parkes and Susan Bane of HARMONY CHURCH and Lynn Dubard of CALVARY CHURCH.

Pictured by herself is Debbie Warren of NORTH CALVARY CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, who has been a state winner for four years (beginning with the Junior Memory Work Drill and continuing through the Bible Explorers' Drill). In the past four years the church has had thirty-one state winners, according to David Kendall, pastor.

Mrs. Duane Ivey Hurt In Accident In New Jersey

Mrs. H. Duane Ivey (formerly Fay Lee) and son, Randal, 14, are in the Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, N. J., following an automobile accident, on November 27. They have just recently moved to Neptune where Rev. Ivey is beginning a new church under the direction of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mrs. Ivey has both broken legs and ankle. One knee has already been operated on and she will have at least three more operations. Randal has one broken leg, broken jaw and cheek bones and a serious concussion.

Mrs. Ivey is a sister to Mrs. William P. Stevenson of Jackson. Other Mississippi relatives are a sister, Mrs. E. H. Latham, Sanatorium and a brother, Dr. Bill Lee, Biloxi.

Their home address is: 14 Shorebrook Circle, Neptune, N. J. 07753.

Shelby Calls Pastor

Rev. Charles R. Farmer has accepted the call of First Church, Shelby to serve as pastor. He has been pastor of Calvary, Holly Springs, for 33 months.

During his ministry at Calvary there were 47 additions by baptism and 31 additions by letter. The church bought a split-level, four-bedroom, two bath brick house for the pastor's home. Draperies and new pews were installed in the church auditorium. Total gifts to mission causes tripled.

Farmer was active in associational work and taught at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary Center.

Native of St. Joseph, Missouri, he is a graduate of Gard Business College in St. Joseph. He earned the B. A. degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, completed one year's work toward the M. R. E. degree at Golden Gate Seminary, and earned the B. D. degree at New Orleans Seminary.

He has served other pastorates in Mississippi and Missouri. Mrs. Farmer is the former Faye Wilbanks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Wilbanks of Corinth.

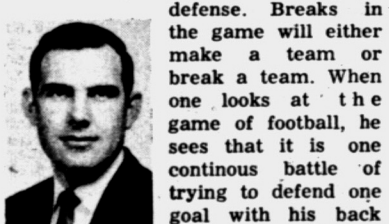
Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

When You've Got It Made In The Game Of Life

Gen. 41:1-46:8

By Bill Duncan

The name of the game is football. It is based on the fact that one team has the ball and the other team plays defense. Breaks in the game will either make a team or break a team. When one looks at the game of football, he sees that it is one continuous battle of trying to defend one goal with his back against the wall and then all of a sudden the game will change and a person will recover a fumble and in comes the offensive team that makes the points. No team today can be effective with only an offensive team. There must be a defensive team to defend one's goal against the opponent who's trying to score.



In the game of life, when one thinks he's got it made, in comes a whole new ball game. No one can really say how much a person can stand. No one can say how much a person can carry and still be successful in living. Paul, the apostle, said many years ago, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." This is the motto for both the offensive happenings of life as well as the defensive ways of life.

The test of being Americans is that we think we have it made. We are more dependent upon God when we feel that our wants can be supplied by God. But the successful life is under great test. When we have everything, too often we forget God. Jesus Christ as Lord can enable us to live with success and the abundance of things. No person can really stand the test of life in his own strength.

When one looks at his life and thinks that things are going badly, he must remember that God is both the God of suffering as well as the God of happiness. Without changing one part of his character, he enables us to carry through in all types of circumstances.

Joseph stayed in prison 13 years and then life began to blossom for him. He was placed in Pharaoh's administration where he was able to have a very responsible position that led to the salvation from physical starvation of the nation of Israel. No one could really know how much this meant to the history of Israel. The reason Joseph was placed in the administration of Pharaoh was that it was recognized that God was in the life of Joseph and that God had been able to use his ability. Joseph was a nobody until God's power moved upon his life. This enabled him to communicate his faith and be used of God for the glory of His name.

The story of Joseph is a story of a country boy who made good. When you look at Joseph in Pharaoh's house wearing the ring of responsibility you see him realizing that his place of responsibility carries an awesome danger. He was to try to help the

people of Egypt survive during the years of famine that would come. He had been responsible in little things such as keeping the prison; now he was rewarded with a greater responsibility. The place of leadership at the top is a lonely position. It is a dangerous position. But when God is with a man, he and God make a majority.

Is it right to plan for the future? Should one store up goods and possessions for a rainy day? God gave to Joseph the wisdom to know that when one thinks he has it made he should remember the lean years, because when it rains it pours. This action was the result of God's telling Joseph how to lead a nation. No one could have understood the dream without God's revelation. Joseph provided for the people when everything was going good in order that they could survive when the famine years would come. This responsible act helped him to become a successful man. He was a busy man and in the responsible task that he had he was able even to forgive his enemies who had put him in prison, who had taken freedom away from him and caused him to carry on the life of a servant.

The story of Joseph working with his brothers to help them find safety from the famine and reunion with their brother is a beautiful love chapter. Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. He had forgiveness in his heart, gave to them love as God had loved him.

The sincere heart of Joseph was that he could forget what had happened in the past when his brothers had sold him as a slave because "God sent me before you to preserve a prosperity in the earth and to save lives by a great deliverance." God was in his life and God enabled him to find a dream come true where he could offer to his brothers the hand of brotherhood and God-like love.

This is what you and I must do even when life gets us down. When we're sitting on top of the world, we must love our brothers who in years gone by have abused us and taken advantage of our position and background. A seminary professor once said to me, "Bill, you will be all right as long as you remember where you came from." Joseph was such a man, he could not forget his brothers even though they had mistreated him. Joseph's life was a life of ups and downs, but when he thought he had it made, he was still preparing for times when life would fall in.

There never has been such prosperity as we are facing in our nation. We are living with inflation, but still God has allowed us to enjoy the works of our hands. At this Christmas season, we will face the test of the abundance of things. Will we show our faith by how we live with prosperity? Joseph is a good example of how to live with prosperity.

armpts, thus protecting his body against being cut and bruised by the ropes, as they lifted him out of the pit. After this time, Jeremiah was allowed to stay in the court of the guard attached to the palace. The sequel to the rescue by Ebed-melech is found in 39:15-18. Ebed-melech would be spared in the downfall of the city. He would not be killed by the sword because he had put his trust in the Lord and had shown his compassion for the faithful servant of the Lord.

Truths to Live By
Loyalty is costly. — Loyalty to ideals is costly. To be loyal to ideals of integrity, unselfishness, dependability, and purity will demand struggle and self-discipline and courage. Loyalty to friends is costly. It will include sharing failure, criticism, investment of time, perhaps involvement in tragedy, perhaps the risk of physical suffering, and almost certain agony of spirit in the hard experiences of life. Loyalty to family is costly. It calls for sacrifice in time of trouble, sharing one another's burden, living with unwavering fidelity to husband or wife, physical and emotional strain in the nurture of children, sharing the burden with patience and love to care for aged parents.

Our loyalty to Christ calls for a higher level of confirmation. — What Christian would not aspire to a higher level of devotion? Such aspiration is all the more appropriate when an unbelieving world slurs the level of Christian discipleship and ridicules churches and Christians generally for compromise and hypocrisy in claiming to be identified with Jesus.

RESCUED BY EBED-MELECH
(vv. 7-13)
Ebed-melech was not afraid to be involved for the sake of one who had been treated so unjustly and wickedly. He reported the matter to King Zedekiah openly, charging that the princes had done evil to Jeremiah. King Zedekiah responded favorably to the request of Ebed-melech and sent men with him to lift Jeremiah out of the miry pit. The emaciated condition of Jeremiah is suggested by the fact that they let ropes down with rags on them to go under Jeremiah's

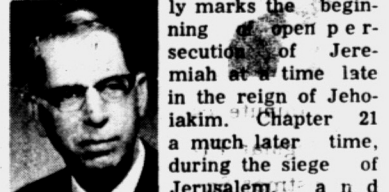
Sunday School Lesson: International

Jeremiah Learns Loyalty Is Costly

By Clifton J. Allen

Jeremiah 20; 21; 37; 38; 39:15-18

More than any of the Hebrew prophets, Jeremiah experienced a baptism of suffering. Chapter 20 like-



ly marks the beginning of open persecution of Jeremiah at a time late in the reign of Jehoiakim. Chapter 21 a much later time, during the siege of Jerusalem, and chapters 37, 38 relate to the same time. Pashhur, a chief officer in the Temple, beat Jeremiah and put him in the stocks for a day and night, thus inflicting severe suffering and open ridicule. Years later, during the siege, Jeremiah was seized by the princes, who beat him and imprisoned him for many days. And later still, he was put into a miry dungeon with the purpose of bringing about his death. Through all these trying experiences, Jeremiah refused to be silent; he declared the word from the Lord.

The Lesson Explained
DECLARING GOD'S WORD (vv. 2-3)
By symbolic acts and forth-

right preaching, Jeremiah warned the leaders, including the king and the princes and all the people that Judah would fall before Nebuchadnezzar. To refuse to surrender meant that the city and the people in it would die by sword and famine and pestilence. But neither the king nor the people would hearken. For a time, during the nearly two years of actual siege, Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guard; but he still had some freedom to declare God's word in the hearing of the people. Hostility toward Jeremiah mounted. He had been accused earlier of disloyalty, of weakening the unity and resistance of the people, and of attempted desertion. Jeremiah was not a traitor. He was a prophet, and the word of the Lord burned like fire within him so that he could not forbear to declare it.

PLACED IN A MIRY DUNGEON
(vv. 4-6)
Though King Zedekiah had shown some regard for Jeremiah, he had shown no strength of courage to resist the princes. Therefore, when they pressed charges against Jeremiah that actually his preaching was traitorous and was causing both the sold-

iers and all the people to lose the desire to resist the Chaldeans, Zedekiah yielded and surrendered Jeremiah to them. The princes seemed to have had some reluctance to kill Jeremiah outright, so that they decided to put him into a miry dungeon. They would vent their wrath against him by letting him die of hunger and exposure. The misery of Jeremiah, already terribly weak and emaciated, is indicated by his sinking down into the muddy mire. And he would have died likely in a short time, the culmination of months and years of ordeals of anguish of mind and body.

Jeremiah was not a traitor. He was a prophet, and the word of the Lord burned like fire within him so that he could not forbear to declare it.

Thursday, December 14, 1972

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 1

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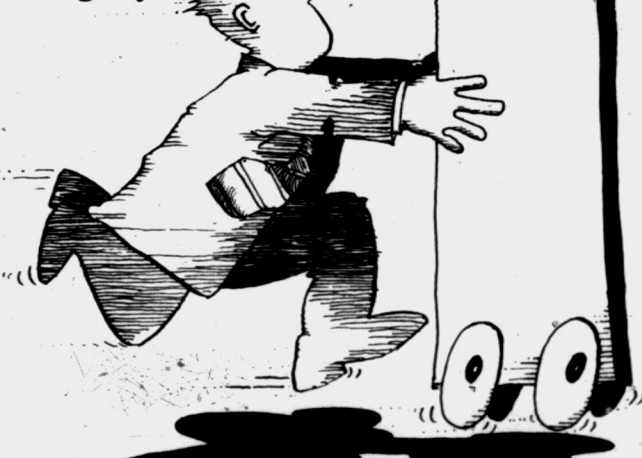
Space limited — Prompt registration is required to secure reservation. Departure date February 7, 1973.

FOR INFORMATION WRITE OR CONTACT: J. T. Gilbert, President of Mississippi Baptist Men's Conference, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

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Devotional

The Tragedy Of A Disappointed Hope

By C. H. Melton, faculty, Clarke College

"And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?" (Isa. 5:3-4 ASV).



Of particular interest to some students of the scripture are the novel ways God has led His messengers to present profound truths. For example, Hosea and Isaiah were instructed to give their children names the meanings of which conveyed God's message of the moment to His people (Hosea 1:3-4; 6, 8-10; Isa. 7:3; 8:3-4). Again, Jeremiah was instructed to wear a yoke about his neck (Jer. 27:1-2; 28:10-12) while Ezekiel shaved the hair of his head and beard and scattered a part of it in the wind (Ezekiel 5:1-4).

In our text we find another instance in which God chooses an unusual way to get the attention of His people and present to them His message. In the larger passage, Isa. 5:1-7 God apparently has Isaiah dressed in the garb of a popular ballad singer, singing a love song to those who would listen. Both the singer and his song evidently caught the attention of those who were milling about the streets of Jerusalem on a festive occasion. According to the song the "well beloved" is deeply disappointed in the object of his love. This "well beloved"—subsequently identified as Jehovah (v. 7)—is suffering the tragedy of a disappointed hope because of the failure of his "vineyard"—"the house of Israel, and the men of Judah" (v. 7)—to accomplish his expectation of it.

In the text Isaiah presents three significant aspects of this tragedy. In verses 1-2a he emphasizes God's **RELATIONSHIP** to Israel and His investment in it as a nation. God planted His "vineyard" in a "very fruitful hill: and he digged it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also hewed out a winepress therein" (vv. 1b-2). The whole thrust of the passage suggests that these investments and expenditures of effort were made because of the incomparable love which the "well beloved" had for his "vineyard."

The recurring theme in verses 2b, 4b, and 7b is upon the **RETURN** God expected on His investment in Israel. In verse 2 the expression "he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes" is found. In verse 4 the same thought is expressed in the words "when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes." To identify what is meant by "grapes" and by "wild grapes" the prophet employs a most interesting play on words in the Hebrew language. "And he looked for justice (mishpat), but, behold, opposition (mispach); for righteousness (tesdagah), but, behold, a cry (tesagah)." The contrasting words sound so similar in the original language but are poles apart in meaning. The truth is that we, like Israel, so often give God the same type of return on His investment in us.

The parabolic song ends with a declaration of God's **REACTION** to Israel's irresponsibility and infidelity. "And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; I will break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: and I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned nor hoed; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it" (verses 5-6).

How often it is that God suffers the tragedy of a disappointed hope because we, His modern vineyard, fail to give to Him adequate and appropriate returns on His gracious investments in us?

Bob Sessoms Named Recreation Consultant

NASHVILLE (BP) — Bob Sessoms, minister of recreation at First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C., has been named a consultant in the church recreation department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

AILOUN, Jordan — Seven students have been graduated from the Baptist Hospital School of Nursing here. The five men and two women were the school's 15th graduating class. Diplomas were awarded by Miss Maurine Perryman, missionary and chairman of the hospital's board of trustees.



15th Anniversary Of Guyton Library

On the 15th Anniversary of the dedication of Guyton Library at Blue Mountain College, honored guests for the Library Open House were members of the family of the late Dr. David E. Guyton and his wife, Corrinne Rogers Guyton, in whose honor the library was named. Shown in the library, looking over a bound copy of Blue Mountain College Alumnae Bulletins, are, front, left to right: W. Norton Guyton of Blue Mountain, for many years Postmaster of the town, brother of Dr. David E. Guyton; and Miss Callie D. Guyton, sister of the famous professor of history and social science, and poet, author, and for forty years, correspondent for the *Jackson Daily News*. Standing, left to right are: Brenda McGee of Collierville, Tenn., a current student Library Assistant; Mrs. D. H. Guyton and her husband, D. H. Guyton, members of the administrative staff of the college, niece and nephew of Dr. David E. Guyton; and Mrs. Joe Byrd Guyton of New Albany, also a niece of the honorees.



Greenville Bible Drills

Thirteen children and youth from FIRST CHURCH, GREENVILLE, were involved in Youth Bible Drill and Bible Explorers' Drill last year through participation in the church, in the association, and in the state finals, according to Kenneth Forbus, minister of education. Responsible for encouraging and working with these were Mrs. E. J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Keeling, and Robert Hand. Pictured above are the participants and their leaders. Front row: Mrs. Smith, Myra Kay Wells, Mary Ann Thompson, Julie Henry, Diane Meredith, Mrs. Keeling. Second row: Lisa Loving, Beth Henry, Dena Loving, Cindy Henry, Mr. Keeling. Third row: James Lindsey, Mike Keeling, Tommy Allen, Brigham Young. Not pictured: Kate Shepard and Mr. Hand.



Happiness Is A Rocking Chair

During the early founding years of Blue Mountain College, the only type rocking chairs used on the porches of the very few campus buildings were wicker, high-backed, and wide-armed. As Blue Mountain College opened its 100th annual session students found duplicate-styled old-fashioned rocking chairs all around the porch areas of the Student Center. Above are Gwen Little of Ecu, left, and Rita Burns of Corinth.

Today's Youth Student Work In Nigeria

By Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, Missionary, Nigeria

One of the best ways of reaching Nigerian high school students for Christ is through a Christian emphasis week. In September I went to Orokpe Baptist High School in the Midwest State for such a week.

It began with a rather indifferent spirit prevailing, but by Friday there was real excitement. Many prayed to receive Christ. At the close of the final service we asked for all who had received Christ that week to come down and stand with the team. We rejoiced as we saw individuals who had been through a struggle step out, 142 in all.

Of those, two were girls in whom I had developed a special interest. Felicia had come on Thursday saying that, although she had been carrying the name Christian, she really had not committed her life to the Lord. As we talked and read together she prayed to receive Christ.

The next day she told me she had a problem. She and Elizabeth, another student on campus, were not speaking and she was troubled about it. She agreed to ask Elizabeth to forgive her, and after we prayed she went to find her.

She returned very depressed and said Elizabeth would not listen. Another girl went to talk to Elizabeth on Felicia's behalf. While she was gone Felicia and I talked about God's power and His promises, and I asked her if she was willing to accept God's promise and pray a prayer of thanksgiving that He had taken care of the situation even before we saw the answer. She agreed, rejoicing.

Soon after, the friend returned saying that Elizabeth wanted nothing to do with Felicia. Felicia's countenance fell. I asked if she really believed God; she said she did, so I told her to go out thanking Him for working out the problem.

That evening, just before the final service, Felicia came with Elizabeth to talk with me. We sat on the back

steps of the chapel even as the singing service was beginning.

"Elizabeth said, 'I'm not even sure that I am a Christian.' But because she had heard the Truth several times that week, it did not take long for her to understand and receive Christ."

After she prayed I asked, "Elizabeth, do you love God?"

"Oh, yes," she replied.

"Do you love Felicia?"

After a pause she said yes, and I suggested she tell her so.

"Felicia, I love you," she said.

"Elizabeth I love you," replied Felicia.

At the close of the service the two girls came forward together.

God is good; how I do praise Him for the opportunity to work with students.

Christmas Challenge Offers Training In Faith Sharing

ATLANTA — Faith-sharing will be the subject of a week-long conference in Atlanta, December 27-January 1, for high school students hosted by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's office of youth evangelism.

Called Christmas Challenge and held at Stouffer's Atlanta Inn, the conference for students in the 9th-12th

grades is designed to train young people to share Christ with others.

A shortened version of Super Summer '72 held at Furman University in Greenville, S. C. earlier this year, the conference will feature intensive training in faith sharing, witnessing, and leadership in sharing groups.

Ken Medima, blind singer, pianist, and music therapist from Upper

Montclair, New Jersey will highlight the music for Christmas Challenge.

In the next few years, he will be one of the great Christian singers in America," said Barry St. Clair, Director of Youth Evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

Special seminars and sharing groups are designed for youth leaders

to help their ministries. Advanced training will be given to those students who attend Super Summer '72.

For registration information, write Barry St. Clair, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Deadline is December 10.

Workshop In Performing Arts To Be Held At Blue Mountain

A workshop in performing arts will be held between semesters at Blue Mountain College January 8-12. Yass Hakoshima, a master of pantomime from New York City, will be guest instructor for the five-day seminar.

Other personnel will include Dr. John Perry, Chairman of the Speech and Drama Department at Blue Mountain College, who will provide an intensive study on current American drama; and Miss Johnnie Armstrong and Miss Mari Hubbard, directors of the Physical Education Department, who will conduct the workshop during the evening sessions. The workshop is structured to give three hours credit, \$25 per semester hour.

Interested persons are invited to attend the workshop either for credit or audit. For further information, write Mrs. Hilda L. Hill, Box 308, Blue

Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Ms 38610.

Yass Hakoshima has presented his original programs in European countries and Canada and since 1967 has toured throughout the United States for the Arts Program.

The artist was born in Osaka, Japan, studied Japanese literature at Kyushu University, and in 1956 became a member of the first Western Pantomime Group in Tokyo.

The Cultural Program of German Universities invited him in 1963. He toured more than forty cities in Germany and Western Europe, and appeared frequently on TV in Cologne, Frankfurt, and Munich.

In May of 1966, following a tour in eastern Canada, he made his New

York debut to wide critical acclaim. During that summer he gave solo performances at the International Classic Theatre Festival in Denver, the Japan Arts Festival in Pittsburgh, and the ALA Festival at Michigan State University.

When not touring, he teaches at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Theatre Arts, the New York Theatre Workshop, and the Phoenix Theatre, all in New York City.

Dr. Perry holds a B. S. in speech education and an M. A. in drama from Syracuse University and a Ph. D. in speech from Southern Illinois University. He has also pursued graduate studies at the University of Rochester, The Breadloaf School of English at Middlebury College under a National Defense Education Act Grant, and at Oxford in England.

Dr. Perry began his teaching career in 1960 and taught on the secondary

Damascus Honors Mrs. Cloud, Member There 63 Years

Damascus Church, Flora, was the setting for a special Thanksgiving program honoring Mrs. Thomas Cloud, pictured, with the story of her life, by her children and the members of the church.

Mrs. Cloud will be entering into her 80th year in January, all of which she has lived in Flora and surrounding communities and has served these communities in association with various church and civic groups and in her own special and personal way. She has been a member of Damascus Church since she was 17.

Rev. Troy B. Land, pastor, Master of Ceremonies, presented the story of Mrs. Cloud's life in the manner of Ralph Edwards in "This Is Your Life." This proved to be a surprise to the honored guest. Gifts included a ring from her children and a charm bracelet from members of the church.

All of Mrs. Cloud's children were present: Ira Bradshaw, Canton; Fred Bradshaw, Flora; Ruby Barrett, Jackson; Lamar Bradshaw, Jackson; Mary Brooks, Jackson; and a step-son, Richard Cloud, Flora. Two of her sisters were present, Mrs. Alma Spann and Mrs. Earline Moulder, both of Jackson. Special music of Mrs. Cloud's favorite hymns was presented by her granddaughter, Mary Jo Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Moulder.

Membership in The Seminarians is open only on the basis of audition. Conducted by Dr. Eugene Brasher, the group represents the seminary in concert appearances throughout the South.

FMB Hotline

The Foreign Missions Hotline number is Area Code 703, 355-6581. It will be available through December 31 for 24 hours a day. Messages will be changed every Tuesday.

7,000 Christmas Greetings By Radio

Those who groan over their growing Christmas card list have nothing in common with the marketing services department of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

For the marketing department is not groaning, but happily sending 7,000 Christmas greetings, one to each radio station in the nation. Greetings are in the form of a record featuring one minute and 20-second spot announcements about the holiday season.

In the spots, Apollo 15 Astronaut James B. Irwin reads the age-old Christmas story from the brand new Living Bible, Paraphrased.

Eastlawn Calls Wimbs

Rev. W. Wimbs, pictured, has accepted the pastorate of Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula. He is married to the former Betty Faye Welch, and is the father of four children, Terry 14, Malinda 10, Lucretia 8, and Katrina 2.

Mr. Wimbs is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and the New Orleans Seminary. He has pastored churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The Wimbs will reside in the parsonage located at 3904 Lincolnshire Circle, Pascagoula.



Yass Hakoshima

level in upstate New York for five years. His college posts include: Special Doctoral Assistant in Theatre at Southern Illinois University, Assistant Professor of English - Drama and Theatre Director at the College of Idaho, and Visiting Lecturer in Theatre Arts at Hiram Scott College.

Dr. Perry has contributed to over thirty magazines. This year he was the recipient of the Memorial Scholarship to the Philadelphia Writers' Conference and has served as researcher-writer at the Canal Museum in Syracuse under an American Heritage Grant.

Off The Record

The Sunday-school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jimmy interrupted. "My mother looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!" —Norma Noblitt in *Dixie Roto Magazine*

In Denver the members of a Sunday school class were asked to set down their favorite Biblical truths. One youngster laboriously printed: "Do one to others as others do one to you." —Lee Olson in *Denver Post*

A woman was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in a distant city. The postal clerk examined the heavy package carefully and inquired if it contained anything breakable. "Nothing but the Ten Commandments," was the quick reply. —Karl B. Rollins

You Plan

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